

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Kolkhozy in the Skapiskis-Kupiskis Region

1. Farmers who refused to join the kolkhozy were known as privatininkai. In fall 1950, after the privatininkai had cut their grain and piled it in the fields, government trucks came during the night and took all the grain as a requisition. Early in 1951 the remaining privatininkai in the area around Skapiskis (N 55-54, E 25-11) were deported to Siberia.
2. There were many Russians on kolkhozy between Skapiskis and Kupiskis (N 55-51, E 24-58) and on kolkhozy along the Lithuanian SSR-Latvian SSR border, especially in the area near Zeimelis (N 56-16, E 23-59). Source does not know whether these Russians were new settlers in Lithuania or were living there before the war. The entire village of Kundruneliai, near Skapiskis, belonged to one kolkhoz. This kolkhoz was so large that the kolkhozniki could not harvest all the crops, and half the yield was left in the fields.
3. Most of the kolkhozniki in the Skapiskis-Kupiskis area lived on farms of persons who had been deported. Kolkhozniki received their food from central kitchens. For breakfast the kolkhozniki were given cabbage soup and, when available, a piece of bread. Lunch consisted of cabbage soup, a piece of bread, and a piece of smoked meat. Dinner consisted of potatoes and a soup made with a watered-down milk base. Kolkhozniki were forced to carry on black-market business and to make whisky illegally in an effort to improve their living conditions.
4. The shortage of fodder was very acute in the Skapiskis-Kupiskis area. In the winter of 1950-1951, a large number of cows had to be butchered in the area around Rokiskis (N 55-58, E 25-35) because of the fodder shortage. So many head of cattle were slaughtered that the price of beef fell to ten rubles per kilogram. Because of a lack of hay to feed cows, many kolkhozniki kept several goats instead. The kolkhozniki called these goats "Stalin's cows." The scarcity of fodder made pig-raising unprofitable, since the pigs couldn't be fattened properly. Kolkhozniki were allowed to keep two sheep.

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The City of Panevezys

5. The Panevezys Boys' Gymnasium was located on Respublikos Street. The Girls' Gymnasium was on a side street off Pilies Street. Jewish children attended the Soviet schools in Lithuania.
6. The yeast plant in Panevezys was not operating. Source heard that it had been dismantled and sent to another part of the USSR. The knitting mill and the soap factory also had been dismantled and shipped elsewhere in the USSR. The distillery near the yeast factory, the brewery, and the sugar factory were operating. Most of the sugar was exported, and it was impossible to buy sugar at the local government shops.
7. Each day during winter a section of Panevezys was deprived of electric current, supposedly to compensate for the increased requirements of the Panevezys sugar factory. The section in which the electricity was cut off varied from day to day. This occurred only in winter; there were no restrictions during the summer.
8. All stone houses in Panevezys were taken over by the government. No one was allowed to build new stone houses. High officials and black-marketeers were allowed to build wooden houses of a fixed size.
9. A tank unit was stationed at Panevezys. MGB quarters and barracks for Soviet officers were located near the red church in Panevezys. 25X1X
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10. Market days in Panevezys were Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. However, there were small markets, open every day, where inhabitants could buy butter, milk, bread, and other foods which were not always available in government shops.
11. The polyclinic in Panevezys was located on Respublikos Street. The maternity hospital was on Kranto Street. Source heard that there were several doctors in Panevezys who were allowed to have private patients, but they were required to pay very high taxes for the privilege. There was a scarcity of foreign patent medicines in Panevezys. One gram of an American medicine used for the treatment of tuberculosis cost one hundred rubles. One package of German tablets (Spalittableten) which cost a few pfennigs in Germany sold for ten rubles. Absorbent cotton was scarce and was sold only by prescription.

Market Conditions

12. Lithuanian stores were well supplied with soap from Leningrad. Thread was of Soviet manufacture and was of very poor quality. In 1949-1950 the supply of German yard goods was plentiful. Stockings on sale in Lithuania were produced by the German firm, Arwa. On one occasion source heard a Russian woman ask for three pairs of American stockings, manufactured by the Arwa firm. The Russian lady described these stockings as being so durable that one pair would last a whole year. Cigarette paper, bicycle tires, glass chimneys for kerosene lamps, and other scarce items were brought from Riga and sold on the black market in Lithuania. When glass chimneys were available in government shops, they cost 1.50 rubles; on the black market they cost seven to nine rubles. Prices were much lower in Lithuania than in the USSR. Source heard from farmers that Soviets came even from Leningrad to buy goods in Svencioneliai (N 55-10, E 26-00). A liter of cream which cost 20 rubles in Lithuania cost 60 rubles in Leningrad.

Religion

13. Source heard that priests who had been deported to Siberia were allowed to write only one letter a year to Lithuania. They were not allowed to receive

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packages and were prohibited from doing any work in Siberia. This means that they almost certainly were starving. Source was told by a Panevezys priest that, at the beginning of 1951, thirty parishes in the area around Kaunas were without priests. Only two of the four churches in Panevezys were open. The priest at one of these Panevezys churches had two rooms in the rectory; the remaining rooms were occupied by Soviets. The priest's cook had to wait until the Soviet cooks had finished preparing meals before she could prepare the priest's food.

14. An order was passed by the government proscribing religious rites at funerals. If a priest officiated at burial services, relatives of the deceased were deprived of any allowances or pensions resulting from the death. This was true even in the case of persons who died in the service of the USSR. In fall 1950, a Panevezys militiaman was killed during an action against a partisan unit in the forests behind Panevezys. The militiaman's mother wanted a priest to officiate at the funeral of her son. However, militiamen who came to see her warned that, if the son were buried according to Catholic rites, the mother would not receive the 5,000-ruble allowance which is paid to mothers and wives of persons killed in combat with partisans. The son was buried without a priest in attendance; however, the priest went to the cemetery at night, said prayers, and consecrated the grave. The Hill of the Three Crosses (Triju Kryziu Kalnas) in Vilnius was changed to Komsomol Hill. The three crosses were destroyed.
15. The kolkhozniki still celebrated Christmas and Easter holidays, despite the displeasure this caused government and Communist officials. However, children were required to go to school on the day after Christmas and the day after Easter. Any children who did not attend on these days were severely punished.

Transportation

16. Railroad coaches in use in Lithuania were of Lithuanian, Soviet, and German manufacture. Soviet coaches were used on long-distance runs, since they were equipped with sleeping boards which could be opened at night. A third-class railroad ticket from Panevezys to Siauliai cost 15.60 rubles. The fare from Panevezys to Subacius (N 55-43, E 24-46) was 4.35 rubles. Ticket collectors on the railroad line between Siauliai and Daugavpils, Latvian SSR, were Soviet women.
17. Lithuanian roads were full of holes and often impassable. The kolkhozniki made small ditches from the holes to the drainage ditches on the side, in an effort to keep the roads dry. However, these small ditches only made the condition of the roads worse.

Entertainment

18. Besides Soviet films, German films were sometimes shown in Lithuania. Among the German films shown in 1950 was The Life of Rembrandt. Theaters were always overcrowded when foreign films were shown, because the Lithuanians preferred them to the propagandistic Soviet films.

Deportations

19. Deportations were directed by MGB men who wore blue uniforms with red piping. On 23, 24, and 25 March 1950, many persons were arrested in the area around Panevezys. Source heard that 60 loads of inhabitants were deported at this time. On the highways at night many trucks carrying deportees were seen. Several days before the deportations began, all automobiles in the area were requisitioned by the authorities. This served as a warning to many men, who succeeded in escaping to the forests. Many persons were deported in spring 1950 from Naujamiestis (N 55-41, E 24-09), about ten kilometers from Panevezys. One after another, trucks left this village at night carrying deportees. Between October and December 1950 mass deportations ended and only individuals were deported. Early in 1951, source was told by farmers in the Latvian SSR that, in the area near Panemunis (N 56-06, E 25-18) and Panemuhelis (N 55-55, E 25-23), entire villages along the railroad line had been uprooted and all inhabitants deported to Siberia.

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Partisans

20. Source heard of a large battle which took place in the area between Skapiskis and Simonis (N 55-44, E 25-06), early in 1951. Soviet units and the local militia took part in this action against the partisans. During and immediately after this struggle, all roads and ditches in the surrounding area were closely watched and, without exception, every person's documents were checked. Source identified Kalinauskas (fnu), an MGB man, as one of the worst enemies of the partisans in the Panevezys area. Kalinauskas lived on May 9th Street in Panevezys.
21. Source heard that the partisans were commanded by a general staff which consisted of high prewar, Lithuanian military officers and included some well-known medical doctors. Relations between partisans and inhabitants in the Skapiskis area were friendly, although the kolkhozniki were so poor that they could not support the partisans sufficiently. Partisans were forced to plunder kolkhoz warehouses to obtain food. The women in the villages openly asserted that only worthless men remained behind on the kolkhozy and in the cities, while all the real men were in the forests.
22. Late in 1950, source saw a large arsenal of arms and antiaircraft guns in the eastern part of Daugavpils.

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Comment: Some of the details on Panevezys contained in this report conflict with information contained in [redacted]

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